(174) Dec 27 1929

CLEEVE HOUSE,
SEEND,
MELKSHAM.

My Billy

The most lovely smoky blue cats eyes pair I brooches came from you - no one else could have chosen them - which will give me the greatest air of distinction when I walk abroad. You & Leonard of course ought to give me jewellery, but there's no dealing with you. Still I am very glad you have done so I must admit. Your present of course won't reach you for a very long time - which is very sad. & I had a small present for Leonard which I thought I should bring to Charleston in the hope that you will come over to fetch it as it would certainly get broken if sent - which reminds me that I have also got your trays at the studio & will also take them to Charleston for you to fetch as I thought that would suit you better than having them in London. But if you do want them in London tell me & I will leave them there instead. I go back to Fitzroy St on Monday & we shall go to Charleston Fri Sat. Jan 4. & shall you still be at Rodmell on Sunday the 5th &

if so will you come over to lunch with us?
Please do. Otherwise I shant see you for a
long time. Talking of engagements will
you & Lemard come to a children fancy
dress party in my studio on Sat. the
18th? Please keep that free. Its most
important that you should come -
I expect to be at Charleston from the 4th to
the 16th alone more or less with Julian &
Angelica. Quentin is going to be in London.
Clive I see will also stay in London. &
so I think will Duncan.

I dont think this establishment can
last very much longer. Mrs Bell is perceptibly
aged since last year - shes very weak &
shaky now & must be getting on for 80.
She seems to be much feebler, has breakfast
in bed & rests most of the afternoon.
I suspect that our trials at Seend will
soon be over. Already it seems quite
unreal & only hanging by a thread to
the year 1925. It all belongs properly to
1870 & the wonder is that the servants
can be found to keep up the illusion.
I have been trying to get Thirkle's letters
into order & have more or less succeeded
but I havent yet read them through

(174 a)

CLEEVE HOUSE,
SEEND,
MELKSHAM.

properly. only enough to guess at
dates. I wonder if they could be
published. or at least printed?
Could you write a short introduction
or preface. They seem to me to give
such a definite idea of his character
that it's a pity they should not have some
permanent existence. But I cannot
I can't judge whether it's possible, but you
& Leonard might consider it when they're
in order & easy to read. If it's a question
of printing, printing & paying expenses
I would willingly contribute. Possibly
they're still too personal. I don't know
how Haynes etc would take them.

Today we are to drive over the
Downs. on Sunday to see Cory. Such
are our prospects. Otherwise Quentin, Angelica
& I sit here while the others shoot.
The house is cold after the sun studio.
The servants are numerous & expect me

to wash & change far fewer than one feels to be necessary & all is hideous. Still it will soon be over. By the way do you still want to dispose of a Primus stove? If so I should be delighted to buy it. I don't know how I could get it, but I daresay it could go by the carrier to Lewes & by auntie to Charleston.

I think of you coming in from your walks in the water meadows to a delicious tea by your fire & sitting comfortably with your toes toasting reading your books, with no thoughts of your poor sisters sitting up as proper as may be pouring out tea for the ladies of Seend & eating thin bread & butter & listening to accounts of Women's Institutes. A Room of One's Own lies about & they just remember my relations ships in time to prevent indiscreet remarks - & so absolutely nothing of interest is said to tease you.

So goodbye

VB.

T. PARSONS 3.2.73

175

ca 1929/30 ?

8, Fitzroy Street, W. 1.
MUSEUM 5596.

Sunday.

My Billy.

This letter is pure business. In the first place I owe you £15 10. 3.

Murray	10. 5. 0
Duckworth	3. 3. 3
Longmans	2. 2.
	15. 10. 3

for which I enclose a cheque - Then I have had a letter from Murray asking if we will allow the Science of Ethics to be translated into Urdu for which we should probably be paid £5. 5. 0! Shall we? I suppose I'd better say yes -

About Saturday please don't upset plans. I'm afraid I may have seemed pressing. It's nursing. The fact was that if I'm a Sunday I can see more of her as she sets the whole

day off. so I would have gone this Sunday if I hadn't thought you were coming & going for a picnic with the car etc would be a special treat. & felt I had mismanaged things - But its just as well I didn't go today as it would have poured - I think it will be much better if you either don't come - or if you like come later in the afternoon. If you started about 2.30 you'd be back for tea easily & needn't come back till 6.30. I would go down for lunch & we'd meet. I'm sure Leonard won't want the car longer than that & we could have a picnic tea. Just this the best plan? That is if you can come at all - But you can let me know

Love VS

(1931)

Charleston
Firle
Lewes
Sussex

My Billy.
I have been for the last 3 days
completely submerged in The Waves - I
am left rather gasping. not I breathe.
choking. half drowned as you might
expect - I must read it again when
I may hope to float more gently -
but meanwhile I'm so overcome
by the beauty (is all this what
George is saying to you? I expect
so.) its impossible not to tell you
or give you some hint of what's
been happening to me For its quite
as real an experience as having
a baby or anything else, being
moved as you have succeeded in
moving me - Of course there's
the personal side - The feelings

you describe in what I must take
the Tuby's death (though I know that
is only what it means to me - &
perhaps to you.) But that's not very
important & its accidental that I
can't help such feelings coming in &
giving an added meaning. Even then
I don't know its only because of your
art that I am so moved - I think
you have made me's human feelings
into something less personal - if
you wouldn't think me foolish I
should say you have formed the
"lullaby capable of singing him to
rest". But that's only a small
bit - mostly I am simply
delighted. Startled. Filled with every
kind of mood in turn. Only
one wants time to collect one's wits
& realize one's feelings. I suppose
its quite idiotic of me not to first

Charleston
Firle
Lewes
Sussex

rhapsodies like this before me has had time to use any self control. Especially as everyone else is doubtless doing it too. Never mind you can throw them away - & laugh at them if you like. What is one to do when one wants so much to express oneself in words which aren't one's medium. But I feel it doesn't really much matter how I express myself to you - you really understand however much you pretend not to

Will it seem to you absurd & conceited or will you understand at all what I mean if I tell you that I've been working hard lately at an absurd great picture I've had

painting of & on the last 2 years -
& if I could only do what I want
to - but I can't. it seems to me
it would have some sort of
analagous meaning to what you've
done - How can one explain. but
in one painting & floor covered with
toys & keeping them all in
relation to each other & the figures
& the space of the floor & the light
in it means something of the same
sort that you seem to me to mean.
However I know quite well that
my painting will mean it to me
else - why perhaps it helps me
to understand what you're about
Perhaps - But you can rap my
nose & tell me I'm only a sea
monster & I know very little about
humans & had better swim off
in my own back water. So I
will like a good heart. Now you can
read your other letter & let mine curl up
in smoke. Ever VB

[1932]

but only enough to show me what I might
We are too early in the season for [illegible] in any
quantity – it will be delicious. However we must
keep [illegible] what we want & that shall be.
[illegible] I think we have had enough of them –
I told you we met the Portuguese at Bridge.
Our next visitors (I hope by [illegible] you) were
James & Alix. They turned up out of the blue
in their way to the [illegible] Yesterday I demanded tea
from Joseph & melancholy [illegible] I jumped
in the car & we set off after dark.
However they did not [illegible]. Next came Clive
& Mary with [illegible] & [illegible] & Mary [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

was true. He is [illegible] more intelligent than
most of them however. I [illegible] read me my-
riads about Angelica for whom he always has
had a great feeling. Then he raved about his
whom he adores [illegible] more. But [illegible] matters
[illegible] but I [illegible] for [illegible] raving. It [illegible] interrupted
them [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
three days ago. [illegible] town. Of course we [illegible]
were sighted [illegible] reached [illegible] Light. They had
found them [illegible] [illegible] at Pisa [illegible] since
[illegible] Rogers Girl [illegible] they were to [illegible]
of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
that they [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
driven [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
complete [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

(176)

Charleston

Spring 1933?

Tuesday

My Billy

It is not from any reasons of pride - in fact I am deeply touched by your wanting to take me on your trip - why you should I can't think - but I have already been away such a lot I feel I can't go away again at once - The holidays are always such a scramble & upset to the normal life & will be on me again so soon. I feel I can't afford to spend another bit of the term away - you know we painters are so dependant on our surroundings we can do nothing when snatched away from them - Besides I really think if I got to Italy I could not bear only to spend a week there - it seems like too tantalising - I don't know how you manage it One would see just enough to make

me want more - & I feel I should be unable to collect my powers again for a far longer time than I had spent travelling - But I really am very sure by your letter - you did find me a great bore in the back seat you know -

By the way - why have I been paid 3 times as much as usual for my end papers ? they look as super & do [illegible] a jacket - in fact having us (other) up was a great relief. How wicked you are - I respect you. but I daresay Leonard is to blame too -

I owe you this, your share of a cheque from John Murray - worthy for "English Thought" -

Vic just came back from London & paid a long visit from Dame Ethel. also one from Helen Anrep who says Roger is returning almost at once.

Yours LS

T. PARSONS 3.2.73